

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
WHITSTABLE.

AUGUST 26th 1948.

To the Chairman and Members
of the WHITSTABLE URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Councillor Mrs Stanley and Gentlemen,

I have to present to you my eighteenth Annual Report
as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of
Whitstable.

Area of Urban District	...	...	...	...	8,283 acres
" " " "	(before 1934)	..	...	...	794 "
Population at Census 1931	...	...	...	...	10,820
" (estimated mid-1939)	...	...	...	...	15,620
" (" mid-1946)	...	...	...	...	16,040
" (" mid-1947)	...	...	...	...	16,601
Number of Houses 1931	...	...	...	...	3,466
" " Inhabited houses 1931	...	...	...	...	3,105
" " Inhabited houses 1947 (estimated)	...	...	...	...	7,000
" " Families or Separate Occupiers (1931)	...	...	...	...	3,327
Rateable Value 1946	...	...	...	...	£142,279
Rateable Value 1947	...	...	...	...	£145,532
Sum represented by a penny rate 1947	...	...	...	...	£576

The areas of wards (down to High Water Mark
Ordinary Tides) are as follows:-

Seasalter Ward	....	....	....	2,698 Acres
West Ward	....	....	....	434 "
Central Ward	....	....	....	145 "
South Ward	....	....	....	<u>1,646 "</u>
c/fwd:				<u>4,923 Acres</u>

Brought forward:-	4,923 Acres
Tankerton Ward	266 "
Swalecliffe Ward	<u>2,374 "</u>
	<u>7,563 Acres</u>

Area between High Water Mark
Ordinary Tide and Low Water
Mark Ordinary Tide as measured
from 6" Ordnance Survey Map 2,333 Acres

POPULATION The Registrar General's estimate of the population for mid-1945 was 14,330. In 1946 it was 16,040 - this year it is 16,601, an increase of 561.

According to information from the local Food Office, population based on rationing statistics was at December 31st 1947, 17,294. It will be seen that the population is now greater than before the war, and notwithstanding difficulties of building development, is steadily increasing.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

During the year the building trade has made some progress, although not yet attaining its pre-war proportions. Some of the traffic in the harbour has returned - coastal steamers and a not inconsiderable barge traffic. Employment here, however, is, as always, rather precarious. Boat-building continues less actively than during the War, but in advance of pre-war standards. A few small factories have opened up, but the district has no large industrial establishments and no obnoxious trades. The oyster industry, for which the town is famed, has little to compare it with the flourishing state of former years. Whereas thirty, forty or more yawls laid in the bay, now there are only one or two.

Whitstable, with its long reputation for beneficial results in cases of tuberculosis and other respiratory disease, is again attracting visitors, and the Council are undertaking a number of small but important schemes along its long open front to the sea. A limited number of huts have been reinstated on

the slopes - the crowded conditions of pre-war years have been avoided.

PUBLIC PARKS AND OPEN SPACES - These are as follows:-

			Acreage
Tankerton Sea Front and Slopes..	...		25.1
Tankerton Circus Tennis Courts..	...		1
Tankerton Castle	...	...	4
Westgate Terrace	...	...	0.66
West Cliff Slopes	...	...	2.5
West Beach Tennis Courts	...	...	1
Westmeads Recreation Ground	...	...	5
War Memorial	...	...	0.1
Belmont Sports Ground	...	...	6.8
Fox's Cross - new space	...	...	4
Prospect House Field	...	...	6.52
Duncan Downs	...	...	1.91
			<u>58.59</u>
Parks, Walks and Open Grounds, etc	...		44.79
Playing Fields	...	...	<u>13.8</u>
			<u>58.59</u>

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>BIRTHS</u>	Totals	Males	Females	Total for 1946
<u>Live Births</u>	330	168	162	(317)
- -		-----		
Legitimate	317	158	159	(294)
Illegitimate	13	10	3	(23)
- -		-----		
<u>Still Births</u>	7	2	5	(6)
- -		-----		
Legitimate	6	2	4	(4)
Illegitimate	1	-	1	(2)

The Birth Rate per 1,000 population is:-

		Rate for 1946
Live Births	... 19 .8	(19.7)
Still Births	... 0.42	(0.37)

The birth rate is again high and the number of births higher than in 1946. Births again exceed deaths, this year by 24. It shows the impact of an increasing number of young people of marriagable age on vital statistics. For many years before the war the population of the district had a distinctly ageing character, and deaths exceeded births with a monotonous regularity.

DEATHS

Total	Males	Females	Total for 1946
306	152	154	(267)

The death rate per 1,000 population is:-

		Rate for 1946
Crude death rate	... 18.4	(16.6)

The number of deaths is greater than in 1946 by 39, and the death rate has increased accordingly to 18.4 per 1,000 of the population, and this notwithstanding a brilliant summer followed by a winter of exceptional mildness, for the most part. Nor can it be said from the following list of all causes of death that the intensely cold weather of the first few weeks of 1947 is the direct cause of the increase.

The relatively large number of deaths from intra-cranial vascular lesions and heart disease accounts mostly for the higher rate this year.

CAUSES OF DEATH FOR 1947:-

	Males	Females
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	4	-
Other forms of T.B.	-	1
Syphilitic diseases	2	-
Influenza	-	-
Cancer of buc.cav. and Oesophagus	3	2
Cancer of uterus	-	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	-	2
Cancer of Breast	-	2
Cancer of other sites	20	14
Diabetes	-	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	18	26
Heart disease	45	57
Other diseases of circulatory system	11	8
Bronchitis	9	4
Pneumonia	3	5
Other respiratory diseases	-	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	-
Diarrhoea under two years	1	-
Appendicitis	2	-
Other digestive diseases	4	5
Nephritis	8	8
Puerperal and post- abort: sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-
Premature births	1	-
Congenital malformations	3	2
Suicide	1	-
Road traffic accidents	1	-
Other violent causes	4	1
All other causes	8	13

ALL CAUSES - MALES 152 FEMALES 154

Year	Notifiable Infectious Diseases	Tuberculosis	Respiratory Diseases	Influenza	Cancer	Heart and Circulatory Diseases	All Causes
1938	1	10	11	4	35	97	212
1939	-	8	11	13	64	110	269
1940	1	10	17	6	30	80	248
1941	1	7	19	8	46	62	237
1942	1	5	12	2	34	107	220
1943	-	7	16	10	33	106	222
1944	1	3	11	5	42	106	220
1945	-	4	10	-	32	145	239
1946	-	7	15	7	48	119	267
1947	-	5	24	-	45	165	306

The transferred deaths were:-

Inward: 46 Outward: 24

The age distribution of total deaths was:-

Under 1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and upwards
1 yr.	1 yr.	1 yr.	1 yr.	1 yr.	1 yr.	1 yr.
10	-	1	-	-	10	59
						226

Of the deaths over 65, 40 were between the ages of 65 and 70, 93 between 70 and 80, 77 between 80 and 90, and 16 over 90.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths from puerperal sepsis or other maternal causes.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year were as follows:-

	Total	Males	Females	Totals for 1946.
Legitimate	9	7	2	(12)
Illegitimate	1	1	-	(-)

Infantile Mortality Rates are as follows:-

		(Rates for 1946)
All infants per 1000 live births	30.3	(37.8)
Legitimate infants per 1000		
legitimate births	28.4	(40.8)
Illegitimate infants per 1000		
illegitimate births	77.7	(0.00)

The ages at and causes of death under one year were as follows:-

45 mins.	Atelectasis
7 hrs.	Prematurity and atelectasis
23 hrs.	Prematurity
1 day.	Prematurity
2 days.	Asphyxia. Atelectasis
2 days.	Respiratory failure
1 week.	Atelectasis
3 weeks.	Broncho-pneumonia
2 months.	Asphyxia due to inhalation of stomach contents
5 months.	Gastro-enteritis.

The infantile mortality rate at 30.3 per 1000 live births is still rather high for this area, although it is less than 1946, and compares favourably with the rate for the whole country and the average rate for small towns.

There was one death among the illegitimate births.

TABLE OF BIRTH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY
MATERNAL DEATH-RATES, AND CASE-RATES FOR
CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1947

	(1) W H I T S T A B L E	(2) England and Wales	(3) 126 County Boro's & Great Towns Includ- ing London	(4) 148 Smaller Towns Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census	(5) London Admin- istra- tive County
--	---	--------------------------------	--	--	---

BIRTHS	Rates per 1000 Civilian Population				
Live	19.9	20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still	0.42	0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49
DEATHS					
All Causes	18.4	12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.00	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	--
Measles	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01

NOTIFICATIONS:-					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.00	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever	0.36	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping Cough	5.29	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria	0.00	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas	0.30	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles	13.66	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia	1.32	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64

	Rates per 1000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 yr of age	30.3	41	47	36	37
Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	3.00	5.8	8.0	2.7	4.8

Rates per 1000 Total (live and still) Births.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
NOTIFICATIONS:-					
Puerpural fever)	3.03	7.16	8.99	6.27	1.21
Puerpural pyrexia)	3.03				6.94

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT

A classified summary of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors is as follows:-

Total number of inspections and re-inspections	...	...	...	...	4,222
Inspection of dwelling houses.	...	...	...	...	1,101
" " shops	...	...	...	...	276
" " factories.	...	...	...	...	98
" " bakehouses	...	...	...	...	30
" " dairies and cowsheds..	...	...	...	...	161
" " camping sites etc	...	...	...	...	187
" " ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	86
" " food preparing rooms..	...	...	...	...	91
" " food premises...	...	...	...	...	129
" " infected houses.	...	...	...	...	91
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	570
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	1,402
Number of complaints received.	...	...	...	...	339
" " notices served - Preliminary	...	...	...	...	147
" " " " Statutory	...	...	...	...	26
" " " complied with by persons responsible.	...	...	...	...	115
" " " Complied with by Council in default..	...	...	...	...	1
Total: 173					

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR
THE AREA

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

This consists of myself, Medical Officer of Health; Mr.F.W.I.Whitehouse, Chief Sanitary Inspector; Mr.G.W.Carr, Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr.P.K.Marsh, General Assistant, and Miss Slingsbury, Clerk.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Arrangements remain as described in previous reports and I should like to again express my appreciation for the services rendered by the staff of the County Public Health Laboratory.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

This has continued to be run during the year by the Council but during 1948 it will become part of the County Council Health services under the National Health Services Act. Whether it will continue to receive as such the unstinted voluntary service of local residents remains to be seen.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

During the year scarlet fever cases have been sent to Herne Bay and Whitstable Joint Isolation Hospital - other cases of infectious disease having been sent to Dartford Hospital. This arrangement is of a temporary nature only.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The main source of water supply to the Urban District is the Canterbury Water Co., with a small portion of the area (Yorkletts and part of Seasalter) by the Mid-Kent Water Co. A number of areas with sporadic development rely on rain water and scattered throughout the district approximately 90 houses have shallow wells.

Samples of the public supply taken during the year for chemical and bacteriological examination have been satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The extensive scheme of sewerage for the whole area, including re-sewering parts of the district to prevent flooding have continued to receive the consideration of the Council. There have been meetings with the Herne Bay Council regarding those contiguous areas which might be more economically dealt with jointly.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The work of supervising house refuse collection and disposal is carried on by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Disposal continues to take place in a valley running down to the marshes at Seasalter, about 8 acres in extent. Approach is by the Coastal Road and the average haul is $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles.

HOUSING

During the year the Council has maintained house building progress so that at all times the maximum number permitted, 50 in all, have been under construction by the Council and by private builders under licence. The numbers of houses erected during the year are as follows:-

Number of houses erected by Council	...	46
" " " " " private enterprise...	116	
" " war- damaged houses rebuilt	...	8

At the end of the year there were 12 houses nearing completion at South Street, 4 in Swalecliffe Road, and 4 more at Pye Alley. Construction of 6 and 8 houses at Chestfield and Norman Road respectively, was ready to commence and a contract let for a further 12 houses at Norman Road. The Council also propose to erect a further 40 houses at Grimshill and South Street.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of notifiable infectious disease cases during 1947 and the four years previous:-

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>
Scarlet Fever	6	7	19	19	23
Diphtheria	-	2	2	13	5
Enteric Fever	-	-	1	-	-

(Contd)	<u>1947</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1944</u>	<u>1943</u>
Paratyphoid Fever	-	2	1	-	-
Erysipelas	5	12	12	5	7
Pneumonia	22	31	14	15	21
Tuberculosis (Pul:)	9	12	9	9	9
" (other forms)	9	7	6	6	16
Dysentery	1	-	4	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	3	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever)	2	-	3	2	-
" Pyrexia)	2	-	3	2	-
Measles	217	151	205	70	32
Whooping Cough	88	40	35	44	23
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1	-	-
Malaria (recurrent)	1	-	-	-	-

Measles used to be a biennial epidemic, but 217 cases were notified last year (151 in 1946); there was also an increase in notifications of Whooping Cough, but fewer of other notifiable infectious diseases.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION ETC

There were no notifications or deaths from diphtheria during the year.

The number of children subjected to immunisation during 1947 was as follows:-

Under 5 years	...	214	(1946 - 224)
5-15 years	...	108	(1946 - 102)

TOTAL: 322

Reinforcing injections were given to 53 children.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December 1947.

Age at 31/12/47 i.e. Born in year	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938/ 1942	10 to 14 1935/ 1937	Total under 15
--	-----------------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-------------------------	---------------------------	----------------------

Number Immunised	19 (1)	179 (178)	189 (194)	196 (199)	175 (163)	684 (597)	605 (538)	2047 (1870)
---------------------	-----------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	----------------

Estimated mid-year population 1947.	Under 5 years 1450	5 - 14 years 1870	3320
--	-----------------------	----------------------	------

⌘ Totals for 1946 in brackets.

The Registrar-General's estimated child population for mid-1947 is as above; the figures for 1946 for under 5 years was 1086 and 5-15 years, 1439 and for 1945, 1210 and 1790 respectively. The very considerable increase in this year's estimated population has had the effect of reducing the total percentage of child population immunised, notwithstanding the fact that the work of immunisation of children under 5 years has continued at the Child Welfare Clinic as assiduously as before.

Percentages on Registrar-General's estimated child population mid-year 1947:-

Under 5 yrs. (1946 %)	5 - 15 years. (1946 %)
52.2%	(67.7%)
	68.9%
	(78.8%)

T U B E R C U L O S I S 1947

	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		TOTAL
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Cases on Register at commencement of 1947	52	31	17	42	142
Casēs notified during 1947	6	3	6	3	18
Casēs restored to Register during 1947	1	-	-	-	1
Other additions	5	5	1	1	12
Casēs removed from Register during 1947	6	3	-	7	16
Casēs remaining on Register at end of 1947	58	36	24	39	157

T U B E R C U L O S I S

New Cases and Mortality 1947

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 years	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 years	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 years	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
55 - 65 years	2	1	-	-	3	1	-	-
65 years & up	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	6	3	6	3	4	1	-	1

CONCLUSION

I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Whitehouse, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for the valuable help he has given me through the year. His work all through has been very thorough, under rather trying conditions, and he has been ably assisted by Mr. Carr, Assistant Sanitary Inspector. I would also like to express my thanks to Miss Slingsbury for her help in the clerical part of the work, and finally, I would express to you Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Council, my thanks for the courtesy with which you have invariably treated me.

Your obedient Servant,

Charles E. Etheridge, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GATE LODGE,
THE CASTLE, WHITSTABLE.

9th September 1948.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Whitstable Urban
District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Councillor Mrs Stanley and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work
of the Department for the year 1947.

GENERAL

Total number of inspections made was 4,222,
made up as follows:-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	30
Dairies	...	...	...	91
Milk Samples	...	...	...	53
Cowsheds	...	...	...	70
Ice Cream Premises and sampling	...	...	...	131
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	87
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	42
Cafes, Restaurants, etc.	...	...	...	52
Food Preparing Rooms	...	...	...	28
Fishfryers	...	...	...	11
Dwellingshouses (P.H.A)	...	...	...	337
Dwellingshouses (Housing Act)	...	...	...	36
Council House Applicants and overcrowding cases	...	...	...	464
Verminous Houses	...	...	...	49
Houses let-in-lodgings	...	...	...	13
Camping Sites etc.	...	...	...	126
Movable Dwellings	...	...	...	61
Refuse Heaps and Accumulations.	...	...	...	26
Re-visits and Works in Progress	...	...	...	681
Drainage	...	...	...	132
Drains tested	...	...	...	20
Cesspools	...	...	...	56
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	5
Rodent Control	...	...	...	570

Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	30
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	9
Factories Act (Mechanical power)	...	...	...	54
Factories Act (Non-mechanical power)	...	...	...	27
Shops Acts	...	...	...	293
Water Samples	...	...	...	6
Requisitioning	...	...	...	251
Unsound Food	...	...	...	107
Bedding and Disinfection	...	...	...	27
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	112
Evacuation	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	130

NOTICES SERVED

During the year the following Notices were served:-

Number of Informal Notices	...	147
Number of Statutory Notices	...	26

Of these, the following were completed:-

Number of Informal Notices completed without a Statutory Notice having been served	...	98
Total number of Notices completed	...	116

NUISANCES ABATED

During the year the following nuisances were abated under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector:-

Roofs repaired	...	46
Eaves gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	18
Floors repaired or renewed	...	62
Floors ventilated	...	3
Doors and windows repaired	...	32
Dirty rooms cleansed	...	62
Coppers repaired	...	4
Stoves repaired and renewed	...	11
Brickwork repaired	...	19
Overcrowding abated	...	35
Miscellaneous repairs	...	33
Fireplaces repaired and renewed	...	8

Drains relaid and repaired	...	...	17
Drains cleared	...	...	15
W.C's repaired	...	...	25
W.C's provided with flushing apparatus			2
Ceiling and wall plaster repaired	...		51

H O U S I N G

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). ... 300
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 373
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 2
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 4
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 2
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 147

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices: -

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 98

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

- A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-... NIL

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	26
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-				
(a) By owners	....	...	...	17
(b) By local authority in default of owners	...	...	...	1

3. C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-

(1) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	NIL
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	NIL

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:-	...	...	...	NIL
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

4. Housing Act 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding:-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	95
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	194
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	520
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	2
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved	...	...	...	35
(d) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	122
(3) Number of new cases of overcrowding	...	...	...	19

New Houses During 1947

(a) Total number of dwelling houses on plans submitted during the year	...	...	...	51
(b) Total number of houses erected during 1947	...	...	...	170
(c) Houses erected by Local Authority	...	...	...	46
(d) Houses erected by other persons	...	...	...	116
(e) War damaged houses rebuilt	...	...	...	8

CLEARANCE AREAS

Two properties were demolished during the year, the position now being:-

176 Houses demolished

19 Buildings closed

Total number of persons displaced 504.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

At the end of 1947 there were 15 registered cow-keepers in the Area. Of this number, four were producers of Tuberculin Tested milk and five producers of Accredited milk.

There are five retail purveyors of milk, four with premises inside the district and one with premises situated outside.

Four bottling licences for Tuberculin Tested milk and one dealer's licence for Pasteurised milk were issued.

61 samples were taken as hereunder:-

(i) From Tuberculin Tested Producers (4) - 25,
of which 3 failed to reach the standard.

(ii) From Accredited Producers (5) - 24, of which
9 failed to reach the standard.

(iii) From Retail Purveyors (5) - 12.

All milks are periodically sampled under the National Milk Testing Scheme for cleanliness tests, and samples of washings are frequently taken from churns, bottles etc., to test the efficiency of sterilization.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

For the first nine months of the year the slaughtering of English meat for this Area continued to take place at the two Government controlled private slaughterhouses at Canterbury.

Owing to the unsuitability of these premises, and representations made by Local Authorities which were served by these premises, the Ministry of Food transferred all slaughtering

to their controlled modern abattoir at Plumstead, with consequent improvement of the condition of the home killed meat allocated to this district.

A central slaughterhouse in the town is used by the butchers as a reception depot from which meat is allocated and collected.

All food-shops and food preparing establishments are regularly visited and numerous visits made in connection with the surrender of unsound food for the issue of condemnation certificates, which enables the trader to replace his rationed or points goods.

The following table shows the amount of Unsound Food condemned during the year, viz:-

	...	...	...	lbs
Meat	...	...	...	653
Fish	...	...	...	2139
Tinned Meat	...	...	...	502
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	45
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	167
Cheese	...	...	...	16
Fruit	...	...	...	48
Fats	...	...	...	6
Jam	...	...	...	124
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	67
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	443
				<u>4210 lbs</u>

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERMEN

Prior to the centralisation of slaughtering, there were five annually licensed and two registered slaughterhouses. None of these premises are now used for slaughtering, except for an occasional cottage pig, the slaughter of which is authorised by the Food Office.

Four licences to slaughter animals were issued during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT. SECTION 14

This Section requires the registration of premises used in connection with the manufacture or sale of ice cream or preserved food etc., and 75 registrations have been effected with the Council.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC) REGULATIONS 1947

These Regulations were introduced in 1947 and operated from the 1st of May. The methods of production were laid down and should do much to ensure a clean and safe product.

No bacteriological standard of cleanliness for ice cream has yet been fixed by the Ministry, the reliability of which would justify its use as a statutory test. Use is made, however, of a methylene blue test which serves as a guide to the degree of cleanliness of the product.

Twenty-two samples were taken during the year, all of which were found to be free from disease producing organisms, but which denoted, in some cases, the need for stricter observance of the Regulations. The lack of suitable equipment, particularly that required for cooling purposes, was undoubtedly a serious handicap in the attaining of a high standard.

BAKEHOUSES

There are eleven bakehouses on the Register which are at present in use, there being one addition and one deletion during the year.

FACTORIES ACT

There are 71 factories on the Register, 50 of which use mechanical power, 17 infringements were encountered when making inspections, 11 of which were remedied during the year.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

All known breeding grounds were regularly sprayed, with beneficial results.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service has been carried out by the Public Health Department since 1st April 1947.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A once weekly collection of household refuse is maintained, and is carried out by two S.D. freighters with respective capacities of 10 and 7 cubic yards, a third freighter of limited capacity is utilised as a standby and for special paper collections.

Considerable difficulty was experienced during the year in maintaining collections occasioned by numerous mechanical breakdowns and difficulty in obtaining tyre replacements. Two new freighters are now on order, and their arrival should materially lessen maintenance costs.

Trade refuse is collected twice a week, and where the refuse is offensive, three or four times weekly.

The amount received for the year in connection with charges made for the collection of trade refuse was £63. 18. 6.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The whole of the refuse is disposed of at the Council's Tip at Yorklotts, and is carried out as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry's rules.

The principal items salvaged during the year are as under:-

			Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Rags	...	...	1	15	-	16
Non-ferrous Metals	...	...	-	1	1	8
Ferrous Metals...	...	...	2	17	-	-
Bones	...	...	-	15	3	25
Paper	...	...	80	18	-	-
Bottles and Jars.	...	...		532	dozen	

The total revenue accruing to the Council for this period being £609. 11. 11.

CONTROL OF MOVABLE DWELLINGS

There are thirteen licensed camping sites in the area, providing accommodation for 822 movable dwellings and covering an area of 57 acres.

The year under review proved a very popular one for camping, and in some instances the sanitary arrangements proved inadequate to meet the demands made upon them. In six cases camp owners were requested to augment their existing arrangements, as a result of which new sanitary blocks with washing facilities have now been completed.

The appearance of the sites was materially improved towards the end of the season when the Council insisted upon the removal of unsightly dwellings such as converted bus bodies and vehicles of a like nature.

It is pleasing to note that camp owners are generally co-operative with mutual benefit both to themselves and the Council.

In two cases the layout of camps was completely altered to conform with town planning requirements, and provision made for the siting of chalets, caravans and tents in approved positions.

RODENT CONTROL

Work in connection with the destruction of rats and mice covered, in addition to treatment of private dwellings and business premises, baiting of the sewers, of Yorkletts Refuse Tip and of the Sewage Works.

The first treatment of the sewers during the year consisted of test baiting, when ten percent of the total number of manholes in the district were baited. The object of the test being to ascertain the extent of the rat infestation in the sewers. Bait was taken at 10 of the 28 manholes baited, this indicated only a small rat population.

The test baiting was followed by a maintenance treatment when 74 manholes were baited, bait being taken at 30 manholes.

All methods used in the destruction of rats and mice are those advised by the local representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The following table summarizes work carried out in connection with rodent control:-

Number of complaints received	...	...	68	
Number of Infestations found	...	...	66	... Major 3 Minor 63
Infestations found as a result of independent investigations	...			Major 3 Minor 19
Infestations treated by Council's Operator	...	...	84	
Infestations treated by occupiers..	...	...	4	
Infestations reported to Kent Agricultural Executive Committee...	...	...	1	
Joint operations with Kent Agricultural Executive Committee...	...	...	NIL	

NOTE Major infestations denote twenty rats or more.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

The number of rooms disinfected during the year is as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	...	...	7
Tuberculosis	...	...	10
Diphtheria	...	...	-
Cancer	...	...	4
Anterio Poliomyelitis...	...	...	3
Dysentery	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	<u>15</u>
TOTAL:			<u>43</u>

Number of articles disinfected in steam disinfectors:-

Beds	...	...	17
Mattresses	...	...	165
Pillows	...	...	321
Bolsters	...	...	26
Blankets	...	...	66
Sheets	...	...	8
Cushions	...	...	-
Quilts	...	...	17
Miscellaneous	...	...	<u>23</u>
			<u>643</u>

PUBLIC MORTUARY

The following bodies were removed to the Public Mortuary:-

	Males	Females
Number of bodies admitted - Resident ...	13	4
Number of bodies admitted - Non-resident..	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
	15	4

Number of bodies admitted for post mortem examinations ...	...	19
Number of inquests ...	...	7

CAUSES OF DEATH:-

Natural Causes	...	17
Misadventure	...	1
Suicide	...	<u>1</u>
		<u>19</u>

ALLOCATION OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

The Council continued to operate the points scheme in assisting them in allocating accommodation during the year. Applicants were visited by the Sanitary Inspectors with the view of verifying the statements contained on the application forms, and of examining their living conditions.

REQUISITIONING FOR HOUSING

Considerable work was carried out in this connection and whilst the accommodation made available to the Council was negligible, there is no doubt that unoccupied houses remained so for a minimum period.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their support and consideration, to Dr. Etheridge for his encouragement and advice, to my staff for their cheerful and able assistance, and for the co-operation extended by Officials of other Departments.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

F.W.I. WHITEHOUSE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.